GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5859
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
WORKING OF ESI
ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the working of ESIC for the last three years ending as on March 31, 2000 in terms of standard monitoring norms, targets set and achieved, MoU signed etc.; and

(b) if so, details thereof year-wise with agenda for action plan for the current year and during Ninth Five Year Plan period for extension and strengthening of health cover facilities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) & (b) : The ESI Scheme is a self-financing Social Security Scheme. Extension/implementation of the ESI Scheme is need-based and is not linked to five year plans. The ESI Scheme is being extended area-wise in a phased manner. As per the phased programme for 2000-2001 formulated in consultation with the State Governments, the Corporation has decided to extend the ESI Scheme in 71 new areas covering about 1.66 lakh employees. Review of working of the ESI Scheme is an on-going process. However, in July, 1998, the Government had constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.Sathyam to review medical facilities available in ESI hospitals/dispensaries. The Committee submitted its report on 14.1.1999. The recommendations of the Committee regarding enhancement of the ceiling on expenditure on medical care from Rs.500/- to Rs.600/- per insured person per annum, issue of photo-identity cards to IPs and family members, creation of medical posts as per the prescribed norms, enhancement of in-house capabilities of ESI hospitals, introduction of Health Record Booklet for each beneficiary, non-reservation in favour of small scale industries for supply of medicines, multi-level quality control checks, deterrent penal action for supply of sub-standard drugs, purchase of medicines in strip packs, adequate delegation of powers to facilitate local purchase of medicines, uniformity in OPD timings etc. have been accepted so as to streamline working of medical facilities under the ESI Scheme.In order to improve working of ESI hospitals/dispensaries the Corporation has also formulated Annual Action Plan which includes inter-alia provision of modern equipment system in hospitals, availability of basic equipments in dispensaries, establishment of regional trauma centres, establishment of super-speciality services, blood banks, cancer treatment centres, development of indigenous system of medicines etc. For this purpose, the Corporation sanctioned an amount of Rs.1634.76 lakh during 1998-99. Keeping in view the resource position of the Employees` State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Cash Benefits have been revised from time to time. The Extended Sickness Benefit which was earlier payable for a maximum of 309 days has been extended upto two years. The rate of extended sickness benefit has been enhanced from 62.5% to 70% of the pay. The amount of funeral benefit has been enhanced from Rs.1000/- to Rs.1500/-. The contributory conditions for entitlement to sickness benefit has been reduced from 91 days to 78 days and for maternity benefit from 80 days to 70 days. It has been decided to exempt the employees in receipt of wages upto Rs.40/- per day from payment of their share of contribution under the ESI Scheme.